5630 Sawtelle Boulevard
Culver City, California 90230
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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter. I would think that if any association ever voted for a "picture of the century," the Altgens photo should be near the top. As you say, Oswald appears to be in this picture---plus President Kennedy, Governor Connally of Texas, possibly Jack Ruby (at far left), Vice-President and Mrs. Johnson, etc.

Another question: A dark-skinned person seems to be sitting directly below the man on the steps next to the front entrance. Everyone else is smiling and looking towards the motor-cavalcade. Yet this person is not only sitting down just as President Kennedy is passing through--but he is facing the opposite wall of the doorway. Directly behind him, the unknown person appears to be leaning out and from around the wall of the doorway, with a sharp, intense expression on his face. Yes, it could be, as you say, that the long-range lens of Altgens camera caused distortion...and that the person who might be Oswald could be a few feet behind the front wall of the entrance... because of the (negro?) sitting down, the person is at least two feet away.

The person in the white shirt on the fire-escape may either have lost his balance, as you say, or he may be using his right arm and left hand to support himself on the railing while sitting on the steep-steps. However, the man below him (who appears to be leaning out the window, resting his hand on the window-sill) may be reacting to the noise of the first shot and looking to his left. That is, you would think he would be looking toward the front...unless he was looking towards the rear of the motorcade.

In your second picture in WHITEWASH II, Zapruder and his friends are on the narrow wall next to the building. The Stemmons Freeway sign blocked his camera for a few seconds. If a person had been perched on the rear-bumber of a car (or station-wagon) in the parking-lot to the rear of Zapruder, he might have had to have waited for President Kennedy to appear from behind the sign. At this moment, someone from the area of the depository building might have made the first shot---causing Kennedy to raise his hand to his throat (Altgens photo). In the next second, as Kennedy's car moved from behind the sign, the other person (assuming he was on the parking-lot) could have fired the shot past Zapruder (who said he heard a shot from behind him) and the sign. If so--this might explain why several policemen and others ran up to the grassy knoll area, and the railroad employee said he saw a puff of white smoke from here. (In fact, a controversial photo was published, showing what may have been a man on the rear bumber of a station-wagon in the parking-lot, aiming an apparent weapon towards the car.)

Why would the man in the white shirt on the fire-escape (your last photo), if he were a secret-service agent, be wearing a white shirt? He must have been an employee who stepped-out of the open windowm directly below him and sat on the fire-escape to obtain a better view of the motorcade. That is, if he were in distriss--why would anyone shoot him when they would be shooting at the motorcade?

The Lovelady photo you show is a puzzler. It is obvious that the photographer had arranged Lovelady's red-and-white striped shirt to look like the jacket in Altgens photo of the man on the front-steps. His hair may have been clipped (?). Yet, it is obvious that the striped shirt is certainly not the jacket worn by the other person.

Now, it could have been that the FBI asked Lovelady to wear a jacket the same as or similar to the jacket shown by Alten's photo. But Lovelay may have refused to do so. However, he might have complied with the arrangement and poses. Yet, his arms are folded behind him...whereas the man's arms in Altgens photo are in front of him--and, in fact, very much like the pose used by Oswald in the police photo !

Yet, the man in the doorway is tensed and looking at Kennedy's car--not at the car of the Vice-President, closer to his point of view in the doorway. And why is the negro in front of the man sitting down and facing to his left--when everybody else is up--and the crowd of people would block the view of the negro? Why should the left arm of the man in the jacket be around in front of him and not hanging-down from his side in a natural position? As I say, this position duplicates the pose used by Oswald in the police photo the same day.

The person wearing the hat to the far left could be an agent--or Ruby. Here again, he has the same, non-committal, unexcited expression, looking toward Johnson's car and not (like the people in front of him) towards Kennedy's car. The two agents on the right side of Kennedy's car have turned around to look at the rear...possibly in reaction to the first shot. But the two men on the left side are apparently relaxed... showing that the first shot came from the rear and verifying the opening-door of the agent who is jumping-out of the fourth escort-car and running towards Jononson's car. In fact, the fourth-car couldn't see ~~xxx~~ the reactions of Kennedy to the shot--so they must have heard the shot and reacted at once to protect Vice-President Johnson. At this point, it is possible that the other person, utilizing either a powerful weapon or "dum-dum" bullets, took a second shot at Kennedy from the grassy-knoll area. In other words, perhaps this second person waited to see the outcome of the first shot. When he saw that Kennedy merely raised his hands to his throat in reaction to a minor wound, he may have then fired a second shot or third shot with a powerful weapon--causing KennedY's head to explode.

However, the bullet that penetrated Kennedy's back appeared to be several inches below his neck. Why, then, did Kennedy raise his hands to his throat if the bullet hit the area below his neck and in the back? Some havesaid that the bullet may have come from the front. Now, if, as Rowland, testified, he saw two men on the sixth floor--and if Oswald was the man on the front-steps--then Oswald was not on that floor, and the two men escaped. If Rowland was correct, the two men must have worked out a prearranged plan to escape notice when Truly and the policeman ran up the steps. They first saw Oswald when he was getting a coke on the first floor and apparently not out of breath. In the confusion, one or two men (if Rowland was correct) could have escaped from the building.

The immediate reaction of the reader--when he sees the Oswald picture in WHITEWASH II, without a head--or any other picture of Oswald, is to jump to the conclusion that you may have avoided a direct comparison of Oswald's features to the Lovelady photo and Altgens photo. However, how astonishing that Lovelady should resemble Oswald and work in the same building. If Lovelady had been a police agent, he would have been posed wearing Oswald's jacket or something similar--but he refused and was only willing to admit that he wore a red-and-white striped shirt. This threw the picture into confusion, of course, and verified Oswald's statement about being on the front-steps and Altgen's photo.

It may be, in time, that professional photographers societies may vote Altgens photo the "picture of the century." You have done an amazing amount of research and highly-detailed, thoughtful writing. Yes, I have read that many writers have had to finance the publications of their books because of the controversial and new nature of the writings.

Yours very truly,

Kenneth Larson

Kenneth Larson

(CIRCLE RESEARCH)